

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 296857

E.O. 11652, GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SENGHOR BACKS US AID IN ANGOLAN STRUGGLE

MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR AGGREY ON DECEMBER 15, SENEGAL'S PRESIDENT SENGHOR PLEDGED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WILL NOT RECOGNIZE THE MPLA AND ENCOURAGED THE USG TO CONTINUE HELPING ANTI-MPLA FORCES IN ANGOLA. HE SAID THAT LEADERS OF GABON AND CAMEROON, AS WELL AS ZAIRE, HAD TOLD HIM THAT THEY VIEW SOVIET AND CUBAN INVOLVEMENT AS A DANGER GREATER THAN SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY ACTIONS.

IN RELATED COMMENTS SENGHOR:

--FORESAW THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ULTIMATE SOLUTION TO THE ANGOLAN PROBLEM THROUGH THE OAU, BUT ONLY IF THE SUPERPOWERS WITHDRAW THEIR FORCES;

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--PREDICTED THAT THE OAU SUMMIT WILL TAKE PLACE ON JANUARY 10 OR 12 AND WILL ISSUE A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ALL FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA;

--HOPED THAT SENEGAL AND THE US CAN WORK CLOSELY IN THE UN ON THE ANGOLAN ISSUE. (CONFIDENTIAL) DAKAR 7106 AND (UNCLASSIFIED) KHARTOUM 2905, 12/16.)

2. SOARES PROPOSES SOCIALIST/COMMUNIST MEETING

ON THE ROME LEG OF HIS EUROPEAN TOUR TO EXPLAIN THE "NEW COURSE OF THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION," PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST LEADER SOARES TOLD THE PRESS THAT HIS INITIATIVE FOR A MEETING OF ALL COMMUNIST AND SOCIALIST PARTIES OF "LATIN EUROPEAN" COUNTRIES HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY EVERYONE EXCEPT THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: NEITHER SOARES' ITALIAN SOCIALIST HOSTS NOR HIS COMMUNIST INTERLOCUTORS SHARE HIS OPTIMISM THAT SUCH A MEETING CAN BE CONVENED IN EARLY JANUARY. MOREOVER, WE DOUBT THE PCI HAS ABANDONED THE RESERVATIONS, WHICH IT SHARES WITH THE FRENCH COMMUNISTS, ABOUT THE MEETING. (CONFIDENTIAL) ROME 18381, 12/16.)

3. IDI AMIN: WINNING FRIENDS AND INFLUENCING PEOPLE?

THE WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO UGANDA TOLD EMBASSY BONN RECENTLY THAT AMIN'S HANDLING OF THE ANGOLAN CRISIS AND HIS WORK AS OAU CHAIRMAN HAVE BROUGHT HIM GROWING RESPECT FROM MANY AFRICAN LEADERS, INCLUDING EVEN NYERERE. THE AMBASSADOR ALSO NOTED THAT AMIN:

--HAS BECOME MORE CRITICAL OF THE ARABS, LESS ASSURED OF THEIR STAND ON ISRAEL, AND CONVINCED THEY TAKE BLACK AFRICAN SUPPORT IN THE UN FOR GRANTED;

--IMMEDIATELY CLOSED RANKS WITH THE EGYPTIANS AND SUDANESE FOLLOWING THE BREAK WITH THE SOVIETS OVER ANGOLA, AND REFUSED QADHAFI'S INTERVENTION;

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--HAS ASKED FOR CLOSER RELATIONS WITH THE UK, FRANCE, AND CHINA, AND HAS REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT TIES WITH THE US WILL BE NORMALIZED. (SECRET) BONN 20366, 12/16.) INGERSOLL

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